

Coalition To End Fear And Intimidation Of African-Americans And Other Minorities In Forsyth County

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The Coalition-Forsyth County MANIFESTO

This MANIFESTO is about Forsyth County leaders correcting the racial, economic and social injustices that Forsyth County whites have historically committed and continue to perpetrate upon African-Americans and other minorities. It is also about struggling African-Americans and other minorities who are trying to raise up their constitutional human rights, which have historically been "crushed to earth" by white racists and economic exploiters of Forsyth County.

This MANIFESTO is also about AFRICAN-AMERICANS AND OTHER MINORITIES BEING COMPLETELY AND TOTALLY WILLING TO FORGIVE THEIR FORSYTH COUNTY CAUCASIAN SISTERS AND BROTHERS FOR THE UN-CHRISTIAN SINS AND THE UNLAWFUL, HIDEOUS CRIMES THEY PERPETRATED UPON AFRICAN-AMERICANS AND OTHER MINORITIES FROM September of 1912 until THIS DAY in 1992 (80 long years), which included:

1. The three young AFRICAN-AMERICAN MALES who, without a trial, Forsyth County whites hung from trees until dead after a charge had been circulated that ONE -- AND ONLY ONE -- such Black male had raped a young white girl and she expired;
2. Following the illegal lynching of the three young Black males in 1912, White Forsyth Countians rounded up every Black citizen who lived in the County; beat many of them until they were bloody; took everything they had worked hard for, earned and saved (their homes, clothing, furniture, food, farms, jewelry, mules and wagons, weapons, etc.); raped several of the females; robbed them of their dignity; herded them up like cattle or wild animals; and drove every single one of them out of Forsyth County, never to return. Because of this, for some eighty years Blacks have been denied their constitutional rights to live and own a home in Forsyth County; to operate a business in Forsyth County; to go to school in Forsyth County; and denied even a decent-paying, semi-professional job in Forsyth County;
3. In January, 1987, some 50 nonviolent civil rights Christians attempted to conduct a Martin Luther King, Jr. Brotherhood March in Forsyth County, but a mob of some 1,000 white racists and Ku Klux Klan (men, women and children) scolded, brutalized, belted, rocked and iron piped them worse than Blacks and other minorities had been brutalized by any white racist mob in the history of the civil rights movement;
4. Today, August 22, 1992, wise Black families are still afraid to reside in Forsyth county (with the exception of one). This is evidenced by the large number of Black families living in every county surrounding Forsyth County, but none have enough nerve or guts to move into Forsyth County. Today, Forsyth County's leadership spends millions of state and federal tax dollars (much coming from the hard-earned money of Black citizens), but not a single Black is employed by the Sheriff's Department, by the City of Cumming Police Department; not a single Black goes to school in Forsyth County; not a single Black is employed in Forsyth County by the School Board and there is not a single Black person employed by any state or federal agency (such as the Food Stamp Program, Forestry, Agriculture, HUD office, etc.).

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This MANIFESTO is also about dealing with the fact that Forsyth County's rich whites enslave poor whites to commit their racial injustices upon African-Americans and other minorities. Therefore, Forsyth County not only has a serious historic racial problem (white against Black), but also a serious class problem (rich whites on poor whites), which always deepens "pseudo" racial problems.

The mental bondage poor whites are subjected to in Forsyth is nothing less than invisible slavery, the type of slavery which escalates racial conflict. White mental slavery is self-contained. Therefore, it must be properly dealt with prior to truly dealing with racial injustices. So, our struggle for human dignity must never be confined to just fighting for the rights of Black people.

We have gathered together here in Forsyth County, Georgia, crossing all racial, economic, social, educational and religious lines, to reaffirm the idea expressed by Dr Martin Luther King, Jr. that "justice for all must roll down like water from a mighty stream" AND THAT "INJUSTICE ANYWHERE IS A THREAT TO JUSTICE EVERYWHERE!"

And, due to the fact in Forsyth County African-Americans and other minorities continue being denied their constitutional and human rights based upon the color of their skin, WE HAVE A DUTY TO RETURN HERE TO REAFFIRM THE FOLLOWING:

- (1) To reaffirm that no city, county, state or township in this nation is "off-limits" to any law-abiding citizen.
- (2) To reaffirm our right to freedom of speech and the right of the press to accurately portray and report events, and to reaffirm one of the most precious of all human rights - the free exchange of ideas and opinions.
- (3) To reaffirm that this is a nation governed by law; and the United States government and the State of Georgia will not allow Forsyth County to disregard these laws nor will the federal or state government tolerate or condone Forsyth County committing illegal behavior by violating these laws. To reaffirm that every American has the right to buy a home and live anywhere his or her pocketbook can afford. Residents of any community in which they live have the right to fully participate in its government without fear of intimidation and retribution.

We come today to right an 80-year-old wrong; a gross injustice that saw an entire community of Black citizens forced to leave their homes and belongings, their schools, churches, farms, jobs and businesses as they fled racial oppression in the dark of night.

But we know that midnight -- the time at which it is the darkest -- is also the first minute of a new day. Our presence here today not only signifies the ending of an old era (the DREAM), it also signifies the beginning of A NEW ERA (living the dream). We must humbly pray that someday, somewhere, somehow, leaders of Forsyth will find the strength to yield to the wisdom of the Coalition and know that racism and economic exploitation of African Americans and other minorities are not confined to Forsyth County. Therefore the New Movement (LIVING THE DREAM) will not only focus on Forsyth, but immediately began focusing and challenging other communities, government entities, corporations and groups.

WE, THEREFORE, DEMAND THE FOLLOWING:

1. That an eleven-member Bi-Racial Committee be established within two weeks to lead the way and administrate the "democratizing" of Forsyth County, with leaders of Forsyth County naming five members (with one member representing each of the following segments: County Commission, City Council, Chamber of Commerce, and the Board of Education). The Coalition would name five members representing each of these categories from the Metro Atlanta area and the Governor of Georgia would name the Chairperson. We further demand that the Bi-Racial Committee meet and begin work within one week after being named.

2. That the federal government be requested to initiate investigations into public and private employment in Forsyth County to determine the extent of compliance with federal and state fair employment laws and regulations. And, that programs to produce economic development for Blacks and other minorities be initiated in the County.
3. That corporations, companies, and businesses located in Forsyth County, which receive federal and/or state contracts, grants and/or loans, be investigated to determine compliance with federal and state equal opportunity laws, regulations and executive orders.
4. That violations of the 1968 Fair Housing Act in Forsyth County be investigated and rectified by federal and state authorities. And, that home acquisition efforts for Blacks and other minorities be initiated.
5. That concerted efforts be made by law enforcement officials -- federal, state and local to--insure the ongoing safety of Blacks and other minorities, who in the future may decide to conduct street demonstrations, visit, reside or work in Forsyth County. And, that Blacks and other minorities be employed in local law enforcement agencies in significant numbers.
6. That persons whose land and personal property were unlawfully seized have those properties returned and/or they, or their offsprings, be fully and completely compensated and reimbursed for their losses, just like our federal government has done for Native Americans and Japanese Americans of World War II.
7. That educational exchange programs for teachers, students, ministers, law enforcement officers, etc. be developed between Forsyth, Fulton, DeKalb and Atlanta, which will focus on improving inter-group relations.
8. That the Bi-Racial Committee set up the following Standing Committees. Each committee to consist of eight members -- four members named by Forsyth County leaders and four members named by the Coalition. Each named committee of eight persons shall jointly elect their Chairperson, meaning there would be nine members per standing committee.

Housing and Community Development
Employment
Business Development
Community Relations
Youth and Young Adult
Legal Redress
Affirmative Action
Finance Committee

SUBMITTED TO:
Forsyth County Officials

SUBMITTED BY: *f*
Coalition To End Fear And Intimidation Of
African American And Other Minorities
Reverend Hosea L. Williams, Chairperson
August 22, 1992

cc: Pres. George Bush
U.S. Attorney General
Sec. of Housing & Urban Development
Sec. of Health and Human Services
EEOC Commissioner

Gov. Zell Miller
Lt. Gov. Pierre Howard
St. Atty. Mike Bowers
House Speaker Tom Murphy

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